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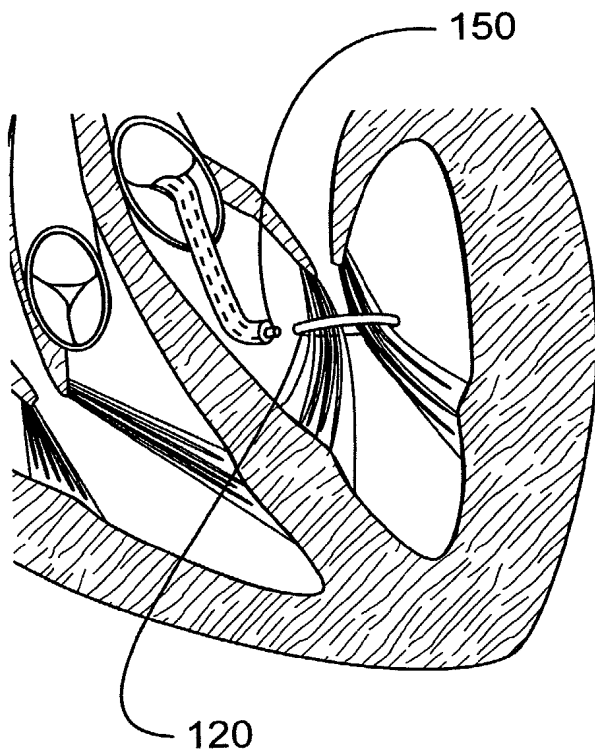
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CHORDAE TENDINAE GIRDLE



(57) Abstract: A girdle (120) for surrounding the chordae tendinae (136) of a heart valve, and a system (200) and method for delivering the girdle (120). The girdle (120) gathers the chordae tendinae (136) into a bundle to effectively shorten the chordae tendinae (136) to resolve or reduce valve leaflet prolapse. The system (200) includes a girdle (120) releaseably carried within a delivery catheter (132), and a push rod (150) to release the girdle (120) from the delivery catheter (132). The girdle (120) has a filamentous linear delivery configuration and one of several annular treatment configurations. The girdle (320) may have a locking mechanism (350) for locking the girdle (320) in an annular treatment configuration.

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International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 623/2.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/2.1, 2.11, 2.36-2.38, 2.42, 11.11, 900, 902; 606/108, 151, 153, 155-158, 228; 600/16, 37; 128/898

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6,629,534 B1 (ST. GOAR et al) 07 October 2003 (07.10.2003), see Figures 6, 36A-40 and column 5, lines 56-60.	1-16
X	US 2002/0035361 A1 (HOUSER et al) 21 March 2002 (21.03.2002), see Figures 21A-22B, paragraphs [0012], [0039], [0102], [0111], [0112].	1-4, 7, 13-16
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Y		5, 6
X	US 6,402,781 B1 (LANGBERG et al) 11 June 2002 (11.06.2002), see Figures 5 and 6, column 10, lines 14-16, column 11, lines 35-37 and columns 11-12, lines 61-34.	4, 8, 10, 11
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